



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary December 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Firley and introductions were done.

The meeting summaries from October 26, 2015 and November 16, 2015 were approved unanimously (motion by D. New; seconded by T. Printz-Platnick).

Update from the County Council – County Councilmember Hans Riemer briefly spoke on the county’s fiscal climate.

Update from Upcounty Regional Director – Regional Director Catherine Matthews announced that: a) County Executive Leggett was ending his year as President of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo); b) Mr. Leggett would hold another virtual town hall meeting on December 15 from 2pm-3pm; and c) the final portion of the Stringtown Road realignment project should be completed in 2016. Board members and guests were directed to other notices in the most recent Upcounty Today! newsletter.

Discussion – “Recommended Changes to the County’s Dept. of Liquor Control.” Councilmember Riemer discussed the Ad Hoc Liquor Control Committee and his legislation to reform the system. He was complimentary about the efforts that the Department of Liquor Control Director George Griffin was making and he emphasized his interest in improving customer service. Mr. Griffin briefly described the improvement plan that the department had started implementing. The plan outlines over 200 action steps. He also announced that the county’s first farm brewery opened earlier in December at the Waredaca Farm in Sunshine (near Damascus).

Discussion – “Update on the Nighttime Economy Task Force Recommendations.” Lily Qi, from County Executive Leggett’s office, reminded the board that the initiative came from Councilmembers Hans Riemer and Marc Elrich in 2013, and that much work had been done thus far. The initiative focuses on branding and marketing the county better to the younger population. There are 32 recommendations from the Task Force, some of which have been implemented. One major milestone is the recent establishment of the new Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

Chair’s Report – none.

Committee / Liaison Reports – none.

Community Concerns/Comments – none.

The meeting was adjourned (motion by P. Seals; seconded by K. Walsleben).

Board Attendance: Dennis Barnes, Brian Donohue, Arthur Edmunds, Mark Firley, Mamady Kamara, Darlene Kerr, Linda Moore, Robert Nelson, Daisha New, Tobi Printz-Platnick, William Roberts, David Rosenbaum, Pat Seals, Kraig Walsleben, and Joel Yesley.

Additional Guests: Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich); Brian Jones (Councilmember Katz); Warren Hansen (Councilmember Berliner); Sharon St. Pierre (Councilmember Rice); Ken Silverman (Councilmember Riemer); Neville Levi; Ibi Sofillas; Art Slessinger.

Staff: Catherine Matthews and Chiffon Smith

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